representative from South Western Maharashtra regarding transfer of Pune-Miraj Kolhapur broadgauge section from the South-Central zone to Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal has been examined in the light of operational and administrative requirements and not found to be feasible.

[*Translation*]

Ban on Supplying Diesel in Drums and Canes

6414. SHRI HARPAL PANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban imposed by the Government on supplying diesel in drums and canes is still in force and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether farmers are facing great difficulties as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government for lifting this ban?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Halt of Puri and Nilachal Express at Tundla Station

6415. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether halt of Puri and Nilachal Express at Tundla Junction has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore halt of these two trains there; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Operational exigencies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In order to avoid increasing the total running time of the train.

[*English*]

Magneto-Hydro-Dynamic Project

6416. SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK: Will the MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal based MHD Pilot Power Project has achieved its objective;

(b) if so, the manner in which this technology is utilised in the conventional Thermal Power Plants; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The coal based MHD Pilot power plant has successfully demonstrated, at the experimental level, the technical feasibility of generating electricity using MHD technology.